THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The project proposal to develop Mysore under Infrastructure and Destination Development has been prioritized for grant for central financial assistance during 2005-06. Proposals received in the Ministry of Tourism complete in all respects, are appraised on inter-se-priority basis and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of places of tourist interest in Maharashtra and Punjab

2327. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra and Punjab have requested the Centre to clear/sanction certain proposals pertaining to places of tourist interest which are pending for the last three years;

(b) what was the number of domestic and foreign tourist who visited Maharashtra and Punjab during 2003-04 in comparison to 2004-05, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) by when, Central Government are likely to sanction the above proposals so as to enable State Governments of Maharashtra and Punjab to take up works early next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, sir.

(b) The number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Maharashtra and Punjab during the year 2003 and 2004 are as under:

State	Year	Domestic Tourist Arrivals	Foreign Tourist Arrivals
Maharashtra	2003	11272906	986544
Punjab	2003	1150015	4589
Maharashtra	2004	13392212	1218382
Punjab	2004	361568	7312

(c) The Ministry of Tourism assists State Govts./UT Administrations by providing central financial assistance for tourism infrastructural project proposals identified and prioritized in consultation with them subject to their merit, inter-se priority and availability of funds etc. The proposals are sanctioned/cleared subject to complete proposal, documentation by the State Governments. This is an ongoing process.

Impact of Dual citizenship Law on Tourism

2328. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase of foreign tourists to India after enactment of the Dual citizenship Law in 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to attract foreign citizens of Indian Origin to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a)and (b) There was an increase of 23.5% in foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2004 as compared to 2003 and the period January to July 2005 has seen an increase of 16.9% in foreign tourist arrivals, as compared to the corresponding period in 2004.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism, through the India tourism offices overseas, undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas to attract foreign tourist, including foreign citizens of Indian origin, to visit India. These include advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organizing seminar, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, joint advertising support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Impact of Incredible India Campaign on tourist Inflow

2329. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Incredible India Programme has resulted in higher number of tourist inflows since the time the campaign was launched;